CBS NEWS -STS-7 LAUNCH (6-18-1983)

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From Saturday, June 18th 1983 CBS NEWS Coverage of STS-7, the first mission to include the first American woman and 3rd woman in history to travel into space.

- Launched at 7:33:00 A.M E.T

  STS-7 CREW:

  Commander: Robert L. Crippen
  Pilot: Frederick H. Hauck
  Mission Specialist 1:John M. Fabian
  Mission Specialist 2:Sally K. Ride
  Mission Specialist 3:Norman E. Thagard

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[Music] this is a cbs news special report from kennedy space center in florida here is cbs news correspondent morton dean more than just another space shot is about to take place in three minutes and 40 seconds from now some u.s space history is to be made out there on launch pad 39a for the first time an american woman will be launched into space her name is sally ride well i guess it's it's important to me that uh that that people particularly people at nasa who are the people that will know think that i did a good job and think that i did what i was what i was trained to do and what they had prepared me to do and if i do that i think that i think we'll have a good flight astronaut sally ride good morning i'm morton dean the countdown has been running smoothly here at the kennedy space center there will be several other firsts on this mission not only will an american woman take a space ride for the first time but on board is the largest crew ever to ride from earth to space a crew of five and at the conclusion of this six-day flight the shuttle is scheduled to land back here at the kennedy space center for the very first time my co-pilot this morning is astronaut dave hilmer's marine major dave helmers dave what about the training for sally ride was it any different from the training that the male astronauts had for this flight i think we should remember that each individual uh crew member has different training requirements because of their individual mission roles harvard sally's train was in no way any different than a males would have been just because of her gender let's take a look at the rest of the crew the crew that will travel on this ride with sally ride the captain or commander of the mission is bob crippen and he's been up there before dave he's been up there and he's been training now

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been up there and he's been training now for almost five years continuously for two flights and he's extraordinarily well qualified as commander and we have three ricky rookies john fabian dr norm thagard and rick howe commander crippen has told the four rookie crew members what to expect from the challenger when the engines roared alive in about a minute and 35 seconds from now and the commander also told us what it's like there is a fairly loud noise when the when the main engine is ignite uh close to six seconds later is when the solids light off and there's a really big bang associated with that there's some vibration going on all at the same time and there is a boot that you can feel but and it but it's a pretty gentle shove and that's the commander of the mission we've got about one minute and five seconds before launch time this will be a six-day mission dave and we're hearing from hugh harris t-minus 55 the hydrogen igniters under the orbiter's engines have been armed these devices are used to ensure that hydrogen flowing through the engines uh does not accumulate uh causing a small explosion and pulse or pressure pulse at engine ignition this is the seventh flight of the shuttle five by the shuttle columbia and this will be the second by the shuttle challenge and to the onboard computer 30 seconds to go we've gone for auto sequence start t minus 25 seconds and counting the sequencer on board now controlling the final seconds t minus 17 seconds and counting the body flap and speed breaker and launch position t minus 10 9 8 7 6. we go for main engine start we have main engine start and ignition and liftoff liftoff of sts-7

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and liftoff liftoff of sts-7 and america's first woman astronaut and the shuttle has cleared the tower looks good this is one of the most critical parts of the launch at this point the engines are being throttled back because of the high aerodynamic pressure dynamic pressure on the vehicle 55 seconds challenger four and a half a perfect launch along for the ride things smooth out quite a bit uh once srb separation is taking place and they are riding upside down that's correct there's a view of the horizon otherwise you wouldn't have that mark one minute 40 seconds challenger now 16 nautical miles in altitude 13 nautical miles downrange grip and how can company now coming into the last traces of the earth's atmosphere challenger now 19 nautical miles in altitude about 10 seconds from the separation of the solid rocket challenger 21 nautical miles in altitude 21 nautical miles downrange standing by now for solid rocket booster separation

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now for solid rocket booster separation they will fall back 12 minutes 12 seconds confirmed good solid rocket booster separation uh the booster is falling away now the boosters will fall into the atlantic ocean about two minutes 180 miles of houston your first stage performance was nominal that was capcom roy bridges advising first stage performance onboard guidance is converging on program challenger is now steering for a precise window in space for main engine shutdown two minutes 40 seconds challenger 35 nautical miles in altitude standing by now for two engine tower capability two engine towel means that they could lose an engine now and still be able to make a landing at uh dakar senegal that would be an emergency lineup mark three minutes i'd call up by capcom roy bridges says the challenger now has landing capability at the car airport should one engine go out mark three minutes ten seconds challengers three main engines continue to run smoothly challengers five person crew really moving out now velocity now reading 7200 a perfect launch the crew gets so used to to uh doing non-nominal simulations that uh probably this launch seems very boring because they have very little to do other than monitor the instruments i can't believe it would be a boring launch it's not exactly boring in that sense but uh certainly in comparison with some of the simulations fabian say guard committed to space travel roger that

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travel roger that miko on your screen is main engine cut off and at that time the shuttle will be in space but it won't yet operator has been activated to provide cooling for challenger and we got a prestamiko call which means that uh no abort will be selected prior to more minutes at this point you're now 54 nautical miles in altitude 155 nautical miles downrange velocity now reading 9 500 feet per second it is going to be a very busy flight the six day flight a lot to do and they're going to make use of that space arm challenger will be flexing its muscle in space and two of the crew members aboard in fact three of the crew members aboard were early developers of the arm uh norm thailand uh and john fabian all were early participants in the development and so they're real experts and we should have a real good show mark five minutes standing by now for preston challenger houston press domico that means just keep on going that sounds great grip the pressed amigo call says should you lose one engine uh press on keep flying forward challengers engines have enough energy to achieve normal altitude and velocity at cut off the challenger is carrying two satellites satellites are paid for one by the indian government and the other by the indonesian government it is truly an international flight i believe some 11 nations are participating in one way or another the west germans have a lot of activity on board that's correct i think we misspoke uh slightly that was a canadian satellite did i say canadian uh the indian satellite will be on sts-8 ice i meant canadian of course and indonesia good pickup and those

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good pickup and those two satellites will be jettisoned from the challenger and the arm will be used to lift the satellite out of the cargo bay we'll drop it off and the challenger and the pallet will the shuttle pallet will fly side by side for a while and the arm will retrieve that pallet and bring it back on board that's an important experiment isn't it that's very important it's sort of a our version of space tag i guess you could call it space starter challenger and on future flights i imagine that arm will be used to retrieve satellites that need some repair work in fact on sts-13 we're playing a uh recovery of an alien satellite in space that should be one of the most exciting missions nautical miles down the range it took only 64 days to get the challenger ready for its second flight it's the uh quickest turnaround so far previously right now for a single 82 days quite a difference we'll be coming up pretty soon on uh 3g throttling three g's three times the acceleration of gravity is the highest g-forces that will be experienced by the crew on ascent and the engines will be throttled back at that point they'll be coming up pretty soon we've talked a lot about the first woman astronaut to fly aboard an american spacecraft 20 i think one thing that should be known about sally is that she was the first astronaut i think in the world that was selected solely upon her qualifications competing against men and i think that that plays a milestone the first black astronaut to fly on american spacecraft will fly on the very next flight the eighth shuttle flight guy blueford jr the united states air force lieutenant colonel

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force lieutenant colonel just a few moments we're coming up to main engine cut off mikko it's gone nautical miles in altitude 690 nautical miles downrange and that big external tank will be jettison free that will not be recovered it breaks up as it falls back toward the indian ocean external tank separation will take place about 18 seconds confirmed shutdown challenger has delivered to space the largest human payload in the history of mankind four men one woman and that's what it looked like on one of the earlier 50 seconds challenger now performing an evasive maneuver moving below and beyond the external tank go no go status check emission control by flight director jay green for the first homes burn and shutting down the auxiliary power unit challenger houston your goal for nominal alums one apu shut down on time all right and that uh ohm's one dave refers to the firing of some little rocket engines which will uh send it into the orbit or to a higher orbit and uh and there'll be another ohms firing later today which will circularize that orbit at 184 miles a4 statute miles well this uh launch has gone without a ripple and we'll be back in just a moment or [Music] two in japan there is a hydrating lotion of such delicacy the skin seems to absorb it instantaneously

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in france there is a skin care regime that helps women look younger longer by filtering the sun in germany there is a space-age cell energizer that accelerates the skin's ability to renew itself and all of these products were developed by one company avon avon research brings the most advanced skin care to you and to women all over the world better skin there's nothing more important to you that's why it's so important to us introducing the avon beauty profile your personal beauty analysis expert advice on the skin care and cosmetics right for you details from your participating avon representative avon now wow is that the publisher's clearinghouse two million dollar sweepstakes you just got yeah how come you haven't sent it in who are you kidding it's just a big come on that's what i used to think until a hundred thousand dollars cash came into my life you'd never hear if anybody ever wins that's what we used to think until we heard we'd won on tv you know that publisher's clearing house two million dollar sweepstakes you just got why would you send it in lots of clearinghouse winners used to think that too come on send it in if you're poor and get lots cornflakes you'll burn a special place [Music] when you sit down to america's [Music] well it continues to be a perfect flight from all that we know sally ride is about to become the very first american woman to orbit the earth and it'll be a busy day

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orbit the earth and it'll be a busy day for them today dave one of the things they'll be doing is launching a canadian satellite annex see it's called uh one of the pam satellites stands for payload assist module it's very similar to the one that was uh two to the satellites that were launched on sts-5 in back in november okay dave thank you very much for uh spending the morning with us thank you enjoyed it immensely the shuttle challenger has made it to space once again and sally ride has made it to the history books astronaut ride her four colleagues and the challenger are scheduled to land back here at the kennedy space center next friday morning at 6 53 eastern time we'll have complete coverage of the launch day activities on the cbs evening news later today i'm morton dean cbs news reporting from the kennedy space center florida t-minus 10 9 8 7 6. we go for main engine start we have main engine start and ignition and liftoff liftoff of sts-7 and america's first woman astronaut and the shuttle has cleared the tower

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